

Pending Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one of said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacle, said discriminating unit counting and determining the denomination of said bills; and

means for flagging bills meeting or failing to meet a certain criteria; wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet said criteria, said bill meeting or failing to meet said criteria being termed a flagged bill.

2. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said flagged bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of said output receptacles.

3. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said flagged bill being located at an identifiable location within said transport mechanism.

4. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said flagged bill being located at a predetermined position.

5. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 wherein said certain criteria is said discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet said criteria of having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit, said bill failing to meet said criteria having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit being termed a no call bill.

6. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 5 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of said output receptacles.

7. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 5 wherein said means for flagging a bill causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being located at a predetermined position.

8. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 5 wherein bills meeting said certain criteria of having their denomination determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of said output receptacles and wherein said no call bill is directed to a second set of output receptacles, said output receptacles of said second set being different from said output receptacles of said first set.

9. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 8 wherein said second set of output receptacles consists of a single no call output receptacle.

10. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 9 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt before said no call bill has been delivered to said no call output receptacle.

11. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 9 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt after said no call bill has been delivered to said no call output receptacle.

12. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 11 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in said no call output receptacle.

13. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 12 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being the last bill transported to said no call output receptacle.

14. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 8 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt before said no call bill has been delivered to one of said second set output receptacles.

15. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 14 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being located at an identifiable location within said transport mechanism.

16. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 8 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt after said no call bill has been delivered to one of said second set output receptacles.

17. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 16 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of said second set output receptacles.

18. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 17 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being the last bill transported to one of said second set output receptacles.

19. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 wherein said discriminating unit further determines whether said bills are suspect and wherein said certain criteria is said discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect and wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets said criteria of being determined to be suspect by said discriminating unit, said bill being determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

20. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 19 wherein bills whose denomination has been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of said output receptacles and wherein said suspect bill is directed to a second set of output receptacles, said output receptacles of said second set being different from said output receptacles of said first set.

21. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 20 wherein said second set of output receptacles consists of a single suspect output receptacle.

22. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 21 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt before said suspect bill has been delivered to said suspect output receptacle.

23. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 21 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt after said suspect bill has been delivered to said suspect output receptacle.

24. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 23 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in said suspect output receptacle.

25. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 24 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being the last bill transported to said suspect output receptacle.

26. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 20 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt before said suspect bill has been delivered to one of said second set output receptacles.

27. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 26 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being located at an identifiable location within said transport mechanism.

28. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 20 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt after said suspect bill has been delivered to one of said second set output receptacles.

29. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 28 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of said second set output receptacles.

30. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 29 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being the last bill transported to one of said second set output receptacles.

31. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 wherein said certain criteria is said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bill and wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet said criteria of having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit, said bill failing to meet said criteria having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein said discriminating unit further determines whether said bills are suspect.

32. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 31 wherein said means for flagging also causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets a second criteria of being determined to be suspect by said discriminating unit.

33. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 32 wherein bills whose denomination has been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of said output receptacles and wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect and bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a second set of said output receptacles, said output receptacles of said second set being different from said output receptacles of said first set.

34. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 33 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill or a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of said second set.

35. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 34 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill or said suspect bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of said second set.

36. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 33 wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect and bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to different output receptacles.

37. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 33 wherein said second set of said output receptacles consists of a single output receptacle.

38. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 31 wherein bills whose denomination has been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of said output receptacles and wherein bills whose denomination has not been determined by said

discriminating unit are delivered to a second set of said output receptacles, said output receptacles of said second set being different from said output receptacles of said first set.

39. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 38 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of said second set.

40. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 38 wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect by said discriminating unit are also delivered to said second set of said output receptacles.

41. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 40 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill or a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of said second set.

42. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 40 wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect and bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to different output receptacles.

43. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 1 having exactly two output receptacles.

44. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 43 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said flagged bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of said output receptacles.

45. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 43 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said flagged bill being located at an identifiable location within said transport mechanism.

46. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 43 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said flagged bill being located at a predetermined position.

47. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 43 wherein said certain criteria is said discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet said criteria of having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit, said bill failing to meet said criteria having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit being termed a no call bill.

48. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 47 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of said output receptacles.

49. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 47 wherein said means for flagging a bill causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being located at a predetermined position.

50. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 47 wherein bills meeting said certain criteria of having their denomination determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein said no call bill is directed to the other output receptacle.

51. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 50 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt before said no call bill has been delivered to said other output receptacle.

52. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 50 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt after said no call bill has been delivered to said other output receptacle.

53. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 52 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in said other output receptacle.

54. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 53 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill being the last bill transported to said other output receptacle.

55. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 43 wherein said discriminating unit further determines whether said bills are suspect and wherein said certain criteria is said discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect and wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets said criteria of being determined to be suspect by said discriminating unit, said bill being determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

56. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 55 wherein bills whose denomination has been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein said suspect bill is directed to the other output receptacle.

57. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 56 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt after said suspect bill has been delivered to said other output receptacle.

58. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 57 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in said other output receptacle.

59. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 58 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said suspect bill being the last bill transported to said other output receptacle.

60. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 56 wherein bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are also delivered to said other output receptacle.

61. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 60 wherein said transport mechanism is not halted in response to the denomination of a bill not being determined.

62. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 56 wherein bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are directed to said first output receptacle.

63. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 43 wherein said certain criteria is said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bill and wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet said criteria of having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit, said bill failing to meet said criteria having its denomination determined by said discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein said discriminating unit further determines whether said bills are suspect.

64. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 63 wherein said means for flagging also causes said transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets a second criteria of being determined to be suspect by said discriminating unit.

65. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 64 wherein bills whose denomination has been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect and bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are directed to the other output receptacle.

66. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 65 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill or a suspect bill has been delivered to said other output receptacle.

67. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 66 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said no call bill or said suspect bill being the last bill transported to said other output receptacle.

68. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 63 wherein bills whose denomination has been determined by said discriminating unit are delivered to a first output receptacle and wherein bills whose denomination has not been determined by said discriminating unit are directed to the other output receptacle.

69. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 68 wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect are also delivered to said other output receptacle.

70. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 68 wherein bills determined by said discriminating unit to be suspect are delivered to said first output receptacle.

71. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one of said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit counting and determining the denomination of said bills; and

means for flagging a bill when the denomination of said bill is not determined by said discriminating unit, wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt.

72. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 71 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to said output receptacle.

73. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 71 wherein said means for flagging a bill causes said transport mechanism to halt with said bill whose denomination has not been determined being located at a predetermined position.

74. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 71 wherein said detector of said discriminating unit includes a stationary optical scanning head for scanning at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between said input and output receptacles by said transport mechanism, and producing an output signal representing the scanned image and wherein said discriminating unit includes signal processing means for receiving said output signal and determining the denomination of each scanned bill.

75. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 71 wherein said transport mechanism transports bills at a rate of at least about 800 bills per minute.

76. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 71 wherein said transport mechanism transports bills at a rate of at least about 1000 bills per minute.

77. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;
a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one of said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacle, said discriminating unit counting and

determining the denomination of said bills and determining whether said bills are counterfeit;
and

means for flagging a bill when said bill is determined to be counterfeit by said discriminating unit; wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt when said discriminating unit determines that a bill is counterfeit.

78. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 77 wherein said means for flagging causes said transport mechanism to halt with said bill which is determined to be counterfeit being the last bill transported to one of said output receptacles.

79. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 77 wherein said means for flagging a bill causes said transport mechanism to halt with said bill which is determined to be counterfeit being located at a predetermined position.

80. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 77 wherein said detector of said discriminating unit includes a stationary optical scanning head for scanning at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between said input and output receptacles by said transport mechanism, and producing an output signal representing the scanned image and wherein said discriminating unit includes signal processing means for receiving said output signal and determining the denomination of each scanned bill.

81. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle positioned to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles positioned to receive said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism comprising a transport drive motor and transport rollers, said transport mechanism located between said input receptacle and said output receptacle to transport said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one of said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit comprising a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacle and comprising a central processing unit, said detector generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information, said characteristic information output signal being electrically coupled to said central processing unit, said central processing unit receiving said characteristic information output signal and generating a denomination signal in response thereto; and

a flagging device comprising said central processing unit and an encoder linked to said transport mechanism, said encoder producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of said bills, said central processing unit generating a no call signal when the denomination of a bill is not determined by said central processing unit; wherein said flagging device generates a stopping signal in response to said no call signal and wherein said transport drive motor stops in response to said stopping signal.

82. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 81 wherein said central processing unit generates a scanned pattern from each of said bills based on said characteristic information output signal and determines the denomination of a bill by comparing the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills, said master patterns being stored in a memory.

83. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 82 wherein said detector comprises an optical scanhead and wherein said scanned and master patterns comprise optical patterns.

84. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 83 wherein said central processing unit correlates the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills and determines the denomination of the bill if the scanned pattern sufficiently correlates with one of the master patterns.

85. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 81 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt with said bill whose denomination has not been determined being located at a predetermined position.

86. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 81 wherein said flagging device causes said transport mechanism to halt with said bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to one of said output receptacles.

87. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

- an input receptacle positioned to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
- a plurality of output receptacles positioned to receive said bills after said bills have been evaluated;
- a transport mechanism comprising a transport drive motor and transport rollers, said transport mechanism located between said input receptacle and said output receptacle to transport said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one of said output receptacles along a transport path;
- a discriminating unit comprising a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacle and comprising a central processing unit, said detector generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information, said characteristic information output signal being electrically coupled to said central processing unit, said central processing unit receiving said characteristic information output signal and generating a denomination signal in response thereto; said central processing unit also generating a counterfeit signal when a bill is determined to be counterfeit by said central processing unit, and
- a flagging device comprising said central processing unit and an encoder linked to said transport mechanism, said encoder producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of said bills; wherein said flagging device generates a stopping signal in response to said counterfeit signal and wherein said transport drive motor stops in response to said stopping signal.

88. (Cancelled) A method of counting and discriminating currency bills of different denominations using a currency evaluation device comprising the steps of:
receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
transporting, under control of the evaluation device, said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one of a plurality of output receptacles of the evaluation device;
counting and determining the denomination of said bills under control of the evaluation device; and
performing a currency authentication test on said bills under control of the evaluation device; and
flagging, under control of the evaluation device, a bill meeting or failing to meet a certain criteria; wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack.

89. (Cancelled) The method of claim 88 wherein said certain criteria is the evaluation device determining the denomination of said bill and wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack when said bill fails to meet said criteria of having its denomination determined by said evaluation device.

90. (Cancelled) The method of claim 89 wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack with said bill being located at a predetermined position.

91. (Cancelled) The method of claim 89 wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack with said bill being the last bill transported to one of said output receptacles.

92. (Cancelled) The method of claim 88 wherein said certain criteria is the evaluation device determining said bill is counterfeit and wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack when said bill fails said currency authentication test.

93. (Cancelled) The method of claim 92 wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack with said bill being located at a predetermined position.

94. (Cancelled) The method of claim 92 wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack with said bill being the last bill transported to one of said output receptacles.

95. (Cancelled) The method of claim 88 wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack with said bill being located at a predetermined position.

96. (Cancelled) The method of claim 88 wherein said flagging step comprises halting said transporting of said bills in said stack with said bill being the last bill transported to one of said output receptacles.

97. (Cancelled) The method of claim 88 wherein said step of determining the denomination of said bills comprises scanning by a stationary optical scanning head at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between said input and output receptacles, and producing an output signal representing the scanned image.

98. (Cancelled) A method of operating a currency evaluation device that discriminates the denomination currency bills comprising the steps of:
receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
transporting, under control of the evaluation device, said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to a plurality of output receptacles of the evaluation device;
determining the denomination of said bills under control of the evaluation device; and
presenting in one of said output receptacles bills whose denominations are not determined by said determining step.

99. (Cancelled) The method of claim 98 wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first set of output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are delivered to a second set of output receptacles, wherein said output receptacles of said second set are different from said output receptacles of said first set.

100. (Cancelled) The method of claim 98 wherein said evaluation device consists of two output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first output receptacle and wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in the other output receptacle.

101. (Cancelled) The method of claim 98 further comprising the step of performing a currency authentication test on said bills under control of the evaluation device.

102. (Cancelled) The method of claim 101 wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first set of output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are delivered to a second set of output receptacles, wherein said output receptacles of said second set are different from said output receptacles of said first set.

103. (Cancelled) The method of claim 102 wherein bills that fail said authentication test are presented in one of said first set output receptacles.

104. (Cancelled) The method of claim 103 wherein bills that fail said authentication test are presented in one of said second set output receptacles.

105. (Cancelled) The method of claim 101 wherein said evaluation device consists of two output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first output receptacle and wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in the other output receptacle.

106. (Cancelled) The method of claim 105 wherein bills that fail said authentication test are presented in said first output receptacle.

107. (Cancelled) The method of claim 105 wherein bills that fail said authentication test are presented in said other output receptacle.

108. (Cancelled) A method of operating a currency evaluation device that discriminates the denomination currency bills and authenticates the currency bills comprising the steps of:

receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
transporting, under control of the evaluation device, said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to a plurality of output receptacles of the evaluation device;

determining the denomination of said bills under control of the evaluation device;
performing a currency authentication test on said bills under control of the evaluation device; and

presenting in one of said output receptacles bills that fail said authentication test.

109. (Cancelled) The method of claim 108 wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first set of output receptacles and wherein bills that fail said authentication test are delivered to a second set of output receptacles, wherein said output receptacles of said second set are different from said output receptacles of said first set.

110. (Cancelled) The method of claim 109 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in one of said first set output receptacles.

111. (Cancelled) The method of claim 109 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in one of said second set output receptacles.

112. (Cancelled) The method of claim 109 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are off-sorted to one of said second set output receptacles without halting said transporting step.

113. (Cancelled) The method of claim 108 wherein said evaluation device consists of two output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first output receptacle and wherein bills that fail said authentication test are presented in the other output receptacle.

114. (Cancelled) The method of claim 113 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in said first output receptacle.

115. (Cancelled) The method of claim 113 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in said other output receptacle.

116. (Cancelled) The method of claim 113 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are off-sorted to said other output receptacle without halting said transporting step.

117. (Cancelled) A method of operating a currency evaluation device that discriminates the denomination currency bills and authenticates the currency bills comprising the steps of:

- receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
- transporting, under control of the evaluation device, said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to a plurality of output receptacles of the evaluation device;
- determining the denomination of said bills under control of the evaluation device;
- performing a currency authentication test on said bills under control of the evaluation device;
- detecting any bills transported in a doubled or overlapping manner; and

presenting in one of said output receptacles bills meeting or failing to meet certain criteria.

118. (Cancelled) The method of claim 117 wherein bills whose denominations are determined are transported to a first set of output receptacles and wherein bills that fail said authentication test and bills that are detected being transported in a doubled or overlapping manner are delivered to a second set of output receptacles, wherein said output receptacles of said second set are different from said output receptacles of said first set.

119. (Cancelled) The method of claim 118 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in one of said first set output receptacles.

120. (Cancelled) The method of claim 117 wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in a first set of output receptacles and bills that are detected being transported in a doubled or overlapping manner are delivered to said first set of output receptacles and wherein bills that fail said authentication test are presented in a second set of output receptacles, wherein said output receptacles of said second set are different from said output receptacles of said first set.

121. (Cancelled) The method of claim 117 wherein the evaluation device consists of two output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in a first output receptacle, bills that are detected being transported in a doubled or overlapping manner are delivered to said first output receptacle, and bills that fail said authentication test are presented in the other output receptacle.

122. (Cancelled) The method of claim 117 wherein the evaluation device consists of two output receptacles and wherein bills whose denominations are determined are delivered to a first output receptacle, bills whose denominations are not determined are presented in said first output receptacle, bills that are detected being transported in a doubled or overlapping manner

are delivered to the other output receptacle, and bills that fail said authentication test are presented in said other output receptacle.

123. (Cancelled) A method of operating a currency evaluation device that discriminates the denomination currency bills comprising the steps of:
receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated an input receptacle of the evaluation device;
transporting, under control of the evaluation device, said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to one or more output receptacles of the evaluation device;
determining the denomination of said bills under control of the evaluation device;
detecting the occurrence of an error condition; and
suspending said transporting upon the detection of said error condition so that a bill triggering said error condition is stopped before being delivered into one of said output receptacles such that said bill is located within said transport mechanism.

124. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 123 wherein said bill is stopped at a predetermined position with said transport mechanism.

125. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 123 wherein said error condition is a stranger error condition.

126. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 123 wherein said error condition is a denomination change error condition.

127. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 123 wherein said error condition is a separate series error condition.

128. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:
an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit counting and determining the denomination of said bills;

means for flagging a bill meeting or failing to meet a certain criteria, said means for flagging causing said transport mechanism to halt in response to the detection of a bill meeting or failing to meet said criteria; and

a routing interface, said routing interface comprising a data retrieval device, said data retrieval device receiving information from a user of said evaluation device specifying to which output receptacles bills that are flagged by said flagging means bills are to be directed.

129. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills; and

a routing interface comprising a data retrieval device, said data retrieval device receiving information from a user of said evaluation device specifying to which output receptacles bills of one or more denominations and bills whose denominations have not been determined by said discriminating unit are to be directed; said routing interface permitting said user to direct bills whose denominations have not been determined to any one or any group of said plurality of output receptacles.

130. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 129 further comprising a flagging control interface, said flagging control interface comprising a flagging data retrieval device, said flagging data retrieval device receiving information from a user of said evaluation device specifying whether said evaluation device should suspend operation based on the detection of a bill whose denomination has not been determined.

131. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 130 wherein said flagging data retrieval device receives information from said user specifying a predetermined position at which said bill whose denomination has not been determined is to be located when the operation of said evaluation device is suspended.

132. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 131 wherein said flagging data retrieval device permits said user to specify that a bill whose denomination has not been determined is to be the last bill delivered to one of said output receptacles when the operation of said evaluation device is suspended.

133. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 130 wherein said flagging data retrieval device comprises a touch-screen.

134. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 129 wherein said data retrieval device comprises a touch-screen.

135. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

- an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;
- a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;
- a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills;

means for flagging a bill meeting or failing to meet a certain criteria; and

a routing interface comprising a data retrieval device, said data retrieval device receiving information from a user of said evaluation device specifying to which output receptacles bills flagged by said means for flagging are to be directed; said routing interface permitting said user to direct flagged bills to any one or any group of said plurality of output receptacles.

136. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 135 further comprising a flagging control interface, said flagging control interface comprising a flagging data retrieval device, said flagging data retrieval device receiving information from a user of said evaluation device specifying whether said evaluation device should suspend operation based on the detection of a bill meeting or failing to meet said criteria.

137. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 136 wherein said flagging data retrieval device receives information from said user specifying a predetermined position at which said flagged bill is to be located when the operation of said evaluation device is suspended.

138. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 137 wherein said flagging data retrieval device permits said user to specify that a flagged bill is to be the last bill delivered to one of said output receptacles when the operation of said evaluation device is suspended.

139. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 137 wherein said flagging data retrieval device permits said user to specify that the operation of said evaluation device is to be suspended before a flagged bill has been delivered to one of said output receptacles.

140. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills and detecting the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;

an interface permitting a user of said evaluation device to specify how said plurality of error conditions are to be handled.

141. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 140 wherein said interface permits said user to specify, for each of said error conditions, to which output receptacle or receptacles a bill triggering a particular error condition is to be directed.

142. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 140 wherein said interface permits said user to specify, for each of said error conditions, whether said evaluation device should suspend operation.

143. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 140 wherein said interface permits said user to specify that the operation of said evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular error condition is stopped before being delivered into one of said output receptacles such that said bill is located within said transport mechanism.

144. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 143 wherein said bill is stopped at a predetermined position within said transport mechanism.

145. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 143 wherein said particular error condition is a stranger error condition.

146. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 143 wherein said particular error condition is a denomination change error condition.

147. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 143 wherein said particular error condition is a separate series error condition.

148. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 140 wherein said interface permits said user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition (1) the operation of said evaluation device should be suspended or (2) a bill triggering said particular error condition should be off-sorted to an output receptacle without suspending the operation of said evaluation device.

149. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 148 wherein said interface permits said user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition the operation of said evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering said particular error condition is presented in an output receptacle.

150. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 148 wherein said interface permits said user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition the operation of said evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular error condition is stopped before being delivered into one of said output receptacles such that said bill is located within said transport mechanism.

151. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 140 wherein said interface permits said user to specify that upon the occurrence of a particular error condition whether the operation of said evaluation device should be suspended so that a bill triggering a particular error condition is stopped (1) before being delivered into one of said output receptacles such that said

bill is located within said transport mechanism or (2) after being delivered into one of said output receptacles such that said bill is the last bill delivered into said one output receptacle.

152. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 151 wherein said particular error condition is a stranger error condition.

153. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 151 wherein said particular error condition is a denomination change error condition.

154. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least one output receptacle for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills and detecting the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;

wherein upon the detection of a particular error condition the operation of said evaluation device is suspended so that a bill triggering said particular error condition is stopped before being delivered into said output receptacle such that said bill is located within said transport mechanism.

155. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least one output receptacle for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills and detecting the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions; and

an interface permitting a user to specify that the operation of said evaluation device should be suspended upon the detection of a particular error condition so that a bill triggering said particular error condition is stopped before being delivered into one of said output receptacles such that said bill is located within said transport mechanism.

156. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills, said discriminating unit further determining whether any of said bills are suspect;

a routing interface comprising a data retrieval device, said data retrieval device receiving information from a user of said evaluation device specifying to which output receptacles (1) bills of one or more denominations, (2) bills whose denominations have not been determined by said discriminating unit, and (3) bills that are determined to be suspect are to be directed; said routing interface permitting said user to direct bills whose denominations have not been determined and bills that are determined to be suspect to any one or any group of said plurality of output receptacles.

157. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device comprising:
a discriminating unit for evaluating currency bills, said discriminating unit including a detector, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills and detecting the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;
an interface permitting a user of said evaluation device to specify how said plurality of error conditions are to be handled; and
a memory storing user information specifying how said plurality of error conditions are to be handled.

158. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:
an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;
an output receptacle for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;
a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacle along a transport path;
a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacle, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills and detecting the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;
a memory storing information associated with a plurality of modes of operation of the device, said memory being designed to store at least one user-defined mode of operation;
an interface permitting a user of said evaluation device to define said user-defined mode of operation; said interface receiving information from said user specifying how said device is to operate including how said plurality of error conditions are to be handled; said information being stored in said memory;
a mode selection element permitting the user to select one of said modes of operation.

159. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, said device comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of bills to be evaluated;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving said bills after said bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting said bills, one at a time, from said input receptacle to said output receptacle along a transport path;

a discriminating unit for evaluating said bills, said discriminating unit including a detector positioned along said transport path between said input receptacle and said output receptacles, said discriminating unit determining the denomination of said bills and detecting the occurrence of a plurality of error conditions;

a nonvolatile memory storing information associated with a plurality of modes of operation of the device, said memory being designed to store at least one user-defined mode of operation;

an interface permitting a user of said evaluation device to define said user-defined mode of operation; said interface receiving information from said user specifying criteria for evaluating said bills and specifying to which output receptacle a bill meeting a certain criteria is to be directed; said information being stored in said nonvolatile memory; and

a mode selection element permitting the user to select one of said modes of operation.

160. (Cancelled) A currency transport mechanism for transporting currency bills, one at a time, to one of a plurality of output receptacles, said currency transport mechanism comprising:

at least one transport plate being substantially smooth and without surface features and having therein a plurality of apertures;

at least one follower plate being substantially smooth and without surface features, said at least one follower plate being substantially parallel and positioned in spaced relation to said at least one transport plate so as to define a currency pathway there between; and
a plurality of transport rolls wherein each transport roll protrudes through a corresponding one of said plurality of apertures so as to frictionally engage and transport currency bills along said pathway.

161. (Cancelled) A transport mechanism for transporting documents, one at a time, to one of a plurality of output receptacles, said transport mechanism comprising:

at least one transport plate being substantially smooth and without surface features and having therein a plurality of apertures; and
at least one follower plate being substantially smooth and without surface features, said at least one follower plate being substantially parallel and positioned in spaced relation to said at least one transport plate so as to define a pathway there between, said at least one follower plate being adapted to be moved apart from said at least one transport plate so as to allow access to said pathway, said at least one follower plate includes at least one diverter having an open and a closed position being triggered by at least one solenoid, said closed position being defined by documents being diverted from said pathway into one of said plurality of output receptacles, and said open position being defined by documents progressing along said pathway past said at least one diverter.

162. (Cancelled) A transport mechanism for carrying currency bills, one at a time, to an evaluating mechanism and then to one of a plurality of output receptacles, said transport mechanism comprising:

transport means for carrying currency bills between an evaluating mechanism and a plurality of output receptacles, said transport means having a first substantially planar region defining a first plane and a second substantially planar region defining a second plane, said first substantially planar region and said second substantially planar region substantially defining said transport means between said evaluating mechanism and said plurality of output receptacles, and said second substantially planar region does not deviate substantially from said first substantially planar region.

163. (Cancelled) A transport mechanism for carrying documents, one at a time, to an discriminating and authenticating mechanism having at least one scanhead and then to one of a plurality of output receptacles, said transport mechanism comprising:

transport means having at least one transport plate having therein a plurality of apertures for carrying documents between a discriminating and authenticating mechanism and a plurality

of output receptacles, said transport means having a first substantially planar region defining a first plane and a second substantially planar region defining a second plane, said first substantially planar region and said second substantially planar region substantially defining said transport means between said discriminating and authenticating mechanism and said plurality of output receptacles, said second substantially planar region does not deviate substantially from said first substantially planar region;

at least one follower plate being substantially smooth and without surface features, said at least one follower plate being substantially parallel and proximate to said at least one transport plate, wherein said at least one follower plate and said at least one transport plate define a pathway there between; and

a plurality of transport rolls protruding through one of said plurality of apertures so as to frictionally engage and transport a document along said pathway towards one of said plurality of output receptacles.

164. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

exactly two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

165. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

166. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

167. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and at least one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

168. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when the discriminating unit is not able to determine the denomination of a bill, a bill whose denomination is not determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

169. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least two ~~two or more~~ output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been ~~evaluated~~ processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein bills whose denomination are determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein bills whose denomination are not determined by the discriminating unit are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, bills whose denomination are not determined by the discriminating unit being termed no call bills, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

170. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 169 wherein the second set of output receptacles includes a receptacle designated as a no call output receptacle.

171. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 170 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill has been delivered to the no call output receptacle.

172. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 171 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the no call output receptacle.

173. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 172 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being the last bill transported to the no call output receptacle, wherein the criterion is the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit is a flagged bill.

174. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 170 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt before a no call bill has been delivered to the no call output receptacle.

175. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 174 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

176. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 169 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after the no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

177. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 175 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in an output receptacle of the second set.

178. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

~~two or more~~ at least two output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the

transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined by the discriminating unit is termed a no call bill, wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill, and wherein the device is adapted to deliver stranger bills to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and deliver no call bills to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

179. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least two ~~two or more~~ output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been ~~evaluated~~ processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the non-piece count related criterion is the discriminating unit determining that a bill is a stranger bill.

180. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least two ~~two or more~~ output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been ~~evaluated~~ processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

181. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 180 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

182. (Previously Presented) The currency evaluation device of claim 181 wherein the second set of output receptacles includes a receptacle designated as a suspect output receptacle.

183. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 182 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt before a suspect bill has been delivered to the suspect output receptacle.

184. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 183 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

185. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 181 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a suspect bill has been delivered to the suspect output receptacle.

186. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 185 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in the suspect output receptacle.

187. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 186 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to the suspect output receptacle, wherein the non-piece count criterion is a bill being suspect.

188. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the criterion is the discriminating unit determining the denomination of the bill, a bill failing to have its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill as the last bill in a second set of one or more of the output receptacles.

189. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:
an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least two ~~two or more~~ output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the criterion is a bill being a stranger bill, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a stranger bill as the last bill in a second set of one or more of the output receptacles.

190. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least two ~~two or more~~ output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein the criterion is a bill being suspect, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a suspect bill as the last bill in a second set of one or more of the output receptacles.

191. (Currently Amended) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

at least two ~~two or more~~ output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been ~~evaluated~~ processed;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles; and

wherein a bill failing to have its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect.

192. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 191 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill is determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit, a bill determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit being termed a suspect bill.

193. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 192 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit and suspect bills are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein no call bills are delivered to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

194. (Previously Presented) The currency evaluation device of claim 193 wherein the second set of output receptacles consists of a single output receptacle.

195. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 193 wherein the discrimination unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the discriminating unit further is adapted to determine whether bills are stranger bills, and wherein stranger bills are delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

196. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 195 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

197. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 196 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill or the stranger bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

198. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 195 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism not to halt after a no call bill or a stranger bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

199. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 198 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

200. (Original) The currency evaluation device of claim 191 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein no call bills are delivered to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

201. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 200 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

202. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

203. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 164 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

204. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate an output signal; and

a processor adapted to receive the output signal and programmed to count and denominate the bills and programmed to determine whether the bills meet or fail to meet a non-piece count related criterion, the processor being programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet the criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet the criterion being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

205. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the processor is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

206. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

207. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

208. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 204 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the

plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the processor is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

209. (Cancelled) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of a plurality of non-piece count related criteria; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria, the at least one criteria being termed a halting criterion, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill satisfying the halting criteria being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

210. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

211. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

212. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

213. (Cancelled) The currency evaluation device of claim 209 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

214. (Withdrawn) A compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count related criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill, the processor being adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet at least one of the criteria.

215. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and at least one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

216. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the device is adapted to deliver and only one output receptacle is adapted to receive denominated bills of more than one denomination.

217. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill satisfying the at least one criterion being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

218. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the certain criteria include a criterion of the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, the processor being programmed to flag no call bills.

219. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 218 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a stranger bill and wherein the processor is programmed to flag stranger bills.

220. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 219 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a suspect bill and wherein the processor is programmed to flag suspect bills.

221. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 220 wherein stranger bills and no call bills are directed to a first set of one or more output receptacles and suspect bills are

directed to a second set of one or more output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

222. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 221 wherein the first set of output receptacles includes at least two output receptacles.

223. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 221 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a no call bill or a stranger bill is delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

224. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 221 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism not to halt when a no call bill or a stranger bill is delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

225. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill to be a stranger bill, and wherein the processor is programmed to flag stranger bills.

226. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining whether a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill and wherein the processor is programmed to flag suspect bills.

227. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

228. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill meeting or failing to meet the at least one criterion being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

229. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill meeting or failing to meet the at least one criterion being located at an identifiable location within the transport mechanism.

230. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill meeting or failing to meet the at least one criterion being located at a predetermined position.

231. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit, a bill failing to meet the criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill.

232. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 231 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in one of the output receptacles.

233. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 231 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill being located at a predetermined position.

234. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 231 wherein bills meeting the certain criteria of having their denomination determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein no call bills are directed to a

second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

235. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 234 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt before a no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

236. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 234 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

237. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 236 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill being positioned at an identifiable location in an output receptacle of the second set.

238. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 237 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a no call bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

239. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether bills are suspect and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets a criterion of being determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit, a bill being determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

240. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 239 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein suspect bills are directed to a second set of one or more

of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

241. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 240 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

242. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 241 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being positioned at an identifiable location in an output receptacle of the second set.

243. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 242 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the suspect bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

244. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 240 wherein bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit are also delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

245. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 244 wherein bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit and the suspect bills are directed to different output receptacles of the second set.

246. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 244 wherein the processor is adapted not to halt the transport mechanism in response to the denomination of a bill not being determined.

247. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 240 wherein bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit are directed to an output receptacle of the first set.

248. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 240 wherein the bills whose denomination have been determined and the bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit are directed to different output receptacles of the first set.

249. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill fails to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill, and wherein the discriminating unit further determines whether bills are suspect.

250. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 249 wherein the processor is also adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill meets a second criterion of being determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit.

251. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 250 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein bills determined by the discriminating unit to be suspect and bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

252. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 251 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt after a no call bill or a suspect bill has been delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

253. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 252 wherein the no call bills and suspect bills are delivered to different output receptacles of the second set.

254. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 252 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the no call bill or the suspect bill being the last bill transported to an output receptacle of the second set.

255. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 249 wherein bills whose denomination have been determined by the discriminating unit are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles and wherein bills whose denomination have not been determined by the discriminating unit are directed to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

256. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 255 wherein bills determined by the discriminating unit to be suspect are also delivered to an output receptacle of the second set.

257. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 255 wherein bills determined by the discriminating unit to be suspect are delivered to an output receptacle of the first set.

258. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 214 wherein genuine bills of the plurality of United States denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of United States denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of United States denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

259. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including bills of a plurality of denominations, the discriminating unit including at least one detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

means for flagging a bill when the denomination of the bill is not determined by the discriminating unit, wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill whose denomination has not been determined is encountered;

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have been denominated including bills of a plurality of denominations to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles.

260. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the currency bills comprise United States currency and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

261. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

262. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the currency bills of a plurality of denominations include bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

263. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

264. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have not been denominated to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the second set of the output receptacles being different than the first set of the output receptacles receiving bills which have been denominated.

265. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 264 wherein the first set and second set of the output receptacles have a stacking mechanism associated therewith and adapted to re-stack denominated bills in one of the first set of the output receptacle and re-stack bills which have not been denominated in one of the second set of the output receptacle.

266. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the detector of the discriminating unit includes a stationary optical scanning head adapted to scan at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between the input and output receptacles by the transport mechanism, and adapted to produce an output signal representing the scanned image and wherein the discriminating unit includes signal processing means adapted to receive the output signal and determine the denomination of each scanned bill.

267. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 259 wherein the transport mechanism is adapted to transport bills at a rate of at least about 800 bills per minute.

268. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles;

a discriminating unit including at least one detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and output receptacle, the discriminating unit being adapted to count and determine the denomination of the bills and determine whether the bills are suspect; and

means for flagging a bill when the bill is determined to be suspect by the discriminating unit; wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when the discriminating unit determines that a bill is suspect.

269. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 268 wherein the currency bills comprise United States currency and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

270. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 268 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

271. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 268 wherein the means for flagging is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when the discriminating unit determines that a bill is suspect with the bill which is determined to be suspect being the last bill transported to one of the output receptacles.

272. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 268 wherein the detector of the discriminating unit includes a stationary optical scanning head adapted to scan at least a preselected segment of each bill transported between the input and output receptacles by the transport mechanism and produce an output signal representing the scanned image, and wherein the discriminating unit includes a processor adapted to receive the output signal and determine the denomination of each scanned bill.

273. (Withdrawn) A high-speed, United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated, at least one of the output receptacles being adapted to receive more than one denomination of bills;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles;

a processor programmed to flag bills meeting or failing to meet any of certain non-piece count criteria, a bill meeting or failing to meet any of the criteria being termed a flagged bill; wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt in response to a determination that a bill meets or fails to meet a given one or ones of the criteria; and

wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill meeting or failing to meet at least a given set of the criteria being positioned in one of the output receptacles.

274. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

275. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a flagged bill being located at a predetermined position.

276. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining the denomination of a bill, a bill failing to meet a criterion of having its denomination determined by the discriminating unit being termed a no call bill.

277. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 276 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a stranger bill.

278. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 277 wherein no call bills are delivered to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles, and wherein stranger bills are delivered to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

279. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 277 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

280. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 279 wherein no calls bills are delivered to a first output receptacle, wherein stranger bills are delivered to a second output receptacle, and wherein the suspect bills are delivered to a third output receptacle.

281. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 279 wherein the output receptacles include a third output receptacle, wherein no call bills and stranger bills are directed to the third receptacle, and suspect bills are directed to a second output receptacle.

282. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 281 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill is directed to the third receptacle.

283. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 281 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism not to halt when a bill is directed to the third receptacle.

284. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the output receptacles include a third receptacle, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to deliver flagged bills to the third receptacle.

285. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill has a denomination other than a target denomination, a bill having a denomination other than the target denomination being termed a stranger bill and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is a stranger bill.

286. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether a bill is suspect and wherein the certain criteria include the discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

287. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

288. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein bills of at least two of the denominations have the same dimensions.

289. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 273 wherein genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

290. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle positioned to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles positioned to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism comprising a transport drive motor and transport rollers, the transport mechanism located between the input receptacle and the output receptacles to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit comprising a processor and at least one detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the detector being adapted to generate a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information, the characteristic information output signal being electrically coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to receive the characteristic information output signal and generate a denomination signal in response thereto; and

a flagging device comprising a processor and an encoder linked to the transport mechanism, the encoder being adapted to produce tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills, the processor being adapted to generate a no call signal when the denomination of a bill is not determined by the processor; wherein the flagging device is adapted to generate a stopping signal in response to the no call signal and wherein the transport drive motor is adapted to stop in response to the stopping signal; and

wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have been denominated to a first set of one or more of the output receptacles.

291. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 wherein the currency bills comprise United States currency and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

292. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

293. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 wherein the flagging device is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to stop with the bill whose denomination has not been determined being the last bill transported to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

294. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 wherein the device is adapted to transport bills which have not been denominated to a second set of one or more of the output receptacles, the output receptacles of the second set being different from the output receptacles of the first set.

295. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 294 wherein the first set and second set of the output receptacles have a stacking mechanism associated therewith and which is adapted to re-stack denominated bills in one of the first set of the output receptacle and re-stack bills which have not been denominated in one of the second set of the output receptacle.

296. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 further comprising a memory and wherein the processor is adapted to generate a scanned pattern from each of the bills based on the characteristic information output signal and determine the denomination of a bill by comparing the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills, the master patterns being stored in the memory.

297. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 296 wherein the detector comprises an optical scanhead and wherein the scanned and master patterns comprise optical patterns.

298. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 297 wherein the processor is adapted to correlate the scanned pattern generated from the bill with master patterns associated with different denominations of bills and determine the denomination of the bill if the scanned pattern sufficiently correlates with one of the master patterns.

299. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

300. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 290 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

301. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle positioned to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles positioned to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism comprising a transport drive motor and transport rollers, the transport mechanism located between the input receptacle and the output receptacle to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit comprising a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle and comprising a processor, the detector generating a characteristic information output signal in response to detected characteristic information, the characteristic information output signal being electrically coupled to the processor, the processor being adapted to receive the characteristic information output signal and generate a denomination signal in response thereto; the processor also being adapted to generate a suspect signal when a bill is determined to be suspect by the processor, and

a flagging device comprising a processor and an encoder linked to the transport mechanism, the encoder producing tracking signals in response to the physical movement of the bills; wherein the flagging device is adapted to generate a stopping signal in response to the suspect signal and wherein the transport drive motor is adapted to stop in response to the stopping signal.

302. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 301 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the processor is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of United States denominations.

303. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 301 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

304. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 301 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

305. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 301 wherein the processor is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the processor is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

306. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and

a processor programmed to cause the transport mechanism to halt in a predetermined manner in response to a determination that a bill meets a stranger bill criterion and in response to

a determination that a bill meets a no call bill criterion, and wherein a bill which meets the stranger bill criterion is termed a stranger bill, and wherein a bill which meets the no call bill criterion is termed a no call bill.

307. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the currency bills comprise United States currency and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations.

308. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate the bills independent of the size of the bills.

309. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the transport mechanism is adapted to transport and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute.

310. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the device is adapted to permit manual removal of a no call or a stranger bill after the transport mechanism has halted.

311. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 310 further comprising a key adapted to restart the operation of the device after the transport mechanism has halted.

312. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill meeting a no call bill criterion or a stranger bill criterion being positioned in one of the output receptacles.

313. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport to halt with a bill meeting a no call bill criterion or a stranger bill criterion being positioned as the last bill in one of the output receptacles.

314. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt with a bill meeting a no call bill criterion or a stranger bill criterion being located at a predetermined position.

315. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein at least one of the output receptacles is adapted to receive denominated currency bills of more than one denomination.

316. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the output receptacles include a second output receptacle, and wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to deliver no call and stranger bills to the second output receptacle.

317. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the discriminating unit is further adapted to determine whether bills are suspect and wherein one of a criterion is the discriminating unit determining a bill is suspect, a bill determined to be suspect being termed a suspect bill.

318. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 317 wherein the output receptacles include second and third output receptacles, and wherein stranger and no call bills are delivered to the second output receptacle and wherein suspect bills are delivered to the third output receptacle.

319. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 318 wherein the processor is adapted to cause the transport mechanism to halt when a bill meeting the no call criterion or the stranger criterion is delivered to the second output receptacle.

320. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, bills of at least two of the denominations having the same dimensions.

321. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 306 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills of a plurality of denominations, genuine bills of the plurality of denominations having a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

322. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the discriminating unit being adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of denominations; and

a processor programmed to control the operation of the device, the processor being programmed in a mode of operation to

- (a) route bills having a target denomination to one of the output receptacles,
- (b) route bills having any other of the plurality of denominations to the second one of the output receptacles, and
- (c) present no call bills in a third one of the output receptacles.

323. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 313 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality United States denominations.

324. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 313 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

325. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 313 wherein genuine bills of the plurality of denominations have a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

326. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

- an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;
- two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;
- a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;
- a discriminating unit adapted to count, denominate, and determine the face orientation of the bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the discriminating unit being adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of denominations; and
- a processor programmed to control the operation of the device, the processor being programmed in a mode of operation to
 - (a) route bills having a target denomination and a target face orientation to one of the output receptacles,
 - (b) route bills having the target denomination and a face orientation opposite the target face orientation to a second one of the output receptacles, and
 - (c) present bills not having the target denomination in a third one of the output receptacles.

327. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 326 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality United States denominations.

328. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 326 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

329. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 326 wherein genuine bills of the plurality of denominations have a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

330. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated; the output receptacles include at least a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the discriminating unit being adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of denominations; and

a processor programmed to control the operation of the device, the processor being programmed in a mode of operation to

- (a) monitor whether any bills are present in the first and second output receptacles,
- (b) route bills having a first target denomination to the first output receptacle,
- (c) route bills having a second target denomination to the second output receptacle,

- (d) upon encountering a bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination, then
- (i) stop the operation of the device if both the first and the second output receptacles have one or more bills therein or
 - (ii) route the bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination to an empty one of the first and second output receptacles if one of the output receptacles is empty and reset the first target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the first output receptacle and reset the second target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the second output receptacle.

331. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 330 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality United States denominations.

332. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 330 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

333. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 330 wherein genuine bills of the plurality of denominations have a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.

334. (Withdrawn) A currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of bills to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated, the output receptacles having at least a first output receptacle and a second output receptacle;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, from the input receptacle to the output receptacles along a transport path;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate bills, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles, the discriminating unit being adapted to denominate bills of a plurality of denominations; and

a processor programmed to control the operation of the device, the processor being programmed in a mode of operation to

- (a) monitor whether any bills are present in the first and second output receptacles,
- (b) route bills having a first target denomination to the first output receptacle,
- (c) generate a denomination change error upon first encountering a bill not having the first target denomination,
- (d) designate a second target denomination to be the denomination of the bill causing the generation of the first denomination change error upon the first occurrence of a denomination change error,
- (e) route bills having the second target denomination to the second output receptacle,
- (f) upon encountering a bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination, then generate a denomination change error and
 - (i) stop the operation of the device if both the first and the second output receptacles have one or more bills therein or
 - (ii) route the bill having neither the first target denomination nor the second target denomination to an empty one of the first and second output receptacles if one of the output receptacles is empty and reset the first target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the first output receptacle and reset the second target denomination to be the denomination of the bill if the bill is routed to the second output receptacle.

335. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 334 wherein the input receptacle is adapted to receive and the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate bills of a plurality United States denominations.

336. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 334 wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to denominate currency bills independently of the size of the bills.

337. (Withdrawn) The currency evaluation device of claim 334 wherein genuine bills of the plurality of denominations have a plurality of images associated therewith, the plurality of images defining the plurality of denominations and wherein the discriminating unit is adapted to distinguish among the plurality of denominations by scanning the image associated with each of the bills.